

Applicant : Andrew RICHARDSON  
Appl. No. : 10/581,379  
Examiner : Michael S. Andler  
Docket No. : 20305-4012

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A bar code scanner comprising a body, a light source and a light detector located within the body, and metallic sheet element mounted relative to the body and formed with an elongate light transmissive opening arranged for being brought into proximity with a surface bearing a bar code for scanning thereof, the light source being configured to direct ~~for directing~~ a beam ~~through said opening~~ to illuminate the bar code and the light detector being configured ~~for detecting~~ to detect light from said beam reflected back from the surface through the opening, ~~wherein said light detector and said light source are located within a body, and wherein said opening comprises a slit formed in a~~ the metallic sheet element by chemical etching, the width of the slit being in the range 0.2mm to 0.4mm ~~said metallic element being mounted relative to said body.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A bar code scanner according to claim 1, wherein the light source is configured for directing said beam through the slit and such that the beam path through the slit lies in a plane substantially aligned with the slit.

3. (Previously Presented) A bar code scanner according to claim 2, wherein the light source is configured to direct light obliquely through the slit.

4. (Previously Presented) A bar code scanner according to claim 1, wherein the light detector is configured for sensing reflections of said beam following a path through the slit that lies in a plane substantially aligned with the slit.

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5. (Previously Presented) A bar code scanner according to claim 4, wherein the light detector is directional and arranged such that it is directed along a line substantially normal to the slit.

6. (Previously Presented) A bar code scanner according to claim 1, wherein the light source is an infrared LED.

7. (Previously Presented) A bar code scanner according to claim 1, wherein the metallic element is formed from a stainless steel.

8. (Previously Presented) A bar code scanner according to claim 1, including a panel by which a sheet can be passed, the panel having an aperture through which the slit is exposed.

9. (Previously Presented) A bar code scanner according to claim 1, further comprising a member having a dished portion, wherein the slit is formed in an opaque element which is accommodated in said dished portion and the dished portion is received in said aperture.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A bar code scanner according to claim 10, wherein the width of the slit is 0.3mm.

12. (Currently Amended) A bar code scanner according to any preceding claim, wherein the ~~separation of the openings of~~ thickness of the metallic element at the slit (19) is in the range 0.05 to 0.1 mm.

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13. (Currently Amended) A bar code scanner according to claim 12, wherein the thickness of the metallic element ~~separation of the openings of at~~ the slit (19) is approximately 0.075mm.

14. (Previously Presented) A sheet validator including a sheet path along which a sheet to be validated is passed and a bar code scanner according to claim 1, located for scanning a bar code on a sheet passing along the sheet path, wherein the sheet validator comprises said body.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a bar code scanner comprising forming a light transmissive slit in a metallic element and mounting the element with respect to a body containing a light source and a light detector, such that light from the light source can pass through the slit and light from the light source that is reflected back through the slit can be detected by the light detector wherein the slit is formed by chemically etching the metallic element with a width in the range 0.2mm to 0.4mm.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a sheet validator including a bar code scanner (12), the method including a method according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~ for manufacturing said bar code scanner (12), wherein the sheet validator comprises said body.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Cancelled).

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- 24. (Cancelled).
- 25. (Cancelled).
- 26. (Cancelled).
- 27. (Cancelled).
- 28. (Cancelled).
- 29. (Cancelled).
- 30. (Cancelled).
- 31. (Cancelled).
- 32. (Cancelled).
- 33. (Cancelled).
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- 37. (Cancelled).
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- 40. (Cancelled).
- 41. (Cancelled).
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- 44. (Cancelled).
- 45. (Cancelled).
- 46. (Cancelled).
- 47. (Cancelled).
- 48. (Cancelled).
- 49. (Cancelled).